

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES**

*February 9th, 2021*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm.

**Commission Members:** Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Shirley Canniff, and associate member Sarah Carrier were present. Associate member Scott Lever was not present for this meeting. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Zachary Vaillette were also in attendance.

**Anticipated Speakers:** Eric Ammondson, Marc Culhane, Josh Atkinson, & Kevin Beuttell

**Members of the Public:** Elaine Blackman

**Preliminary Matter:** Leslie Mayer, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call. Ms. Mayer read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Ms. Mayer.

### **Open Forum – Public Comment**

N/A

### **Correspondence Received: None Received**

N/A

### **Brian Murray Memorial Plaque Request – Eric Ammondson**

Mr. Connelly brought up to Commission Members the request to replace an existing plaque which is dedicated to Brian Murray. Eric Ammondson & Marc Culhane were present to speak on this request. The current plaque is on a tree near Robbins Farm Park, across from the Brackett School.

Mr. Ammondson discussed how the current plastic plaque is broken and that a more permanent replacement is desired. He presented a potential design to the Committee, with the hopes of being installed this spring. Elaine Blackman of Friends of Robbins Farm Park was present on the call to share her support for the plaque replacement. She stated this would be an improvement to the park and thank Mr. Ammondson & Mr. Culhane for their efforts. Ms. Blackman confirmed that there is also another existing plaque, similar to this one, in the park.

Commission Members discussed this proposal. Items that were discussed and to note include the plaque type, placement location, and its wording. It was stated by Mr. Connelly that the gifting policy requires specific wording, not allowing for wording including "memorials" or "in memory of". Commissioners stated the potential replacement plaque should be in the ground in a manner which it does not become a tripping hazard or look like a memorial grave stone. It should have no impact on mowing in the area. Ms. Mayer noted wording cannot include date ranges. Plaques cannot exceed 8 inches by 2 inches and must be placed in accordance to the Commission's Gifting Policy. Ms. Rothenberg personally knew Mr. Murray and extended her condolences. It was noted that the plaque would be placed on a granite stone, flush, and will not exceed size requirements. Ms. Canniff noted that the cross and dates must be removed from the presented design, as well as the change of wording as outline by the policy. The heart on the design is okay to stay. Mr. Connelly is willing to work with the Tree Warden and Mr. Ammondson regarding an exact placement location.

Ms. Canniff made the motion to approve moving forward with the replacement plaque for Brian Murray, as discussed. This includes the change in the plaques wording as outlined by the gifting policy, as well as removal of the date range and cross. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lasker. The Commission voted to approve the replacement plaque as discussed for Brian Murray, 5-0, at 7:27pm.

### **Review of 5 Year Capital Improvement Feasibility Study – Stantec**

Josh Atkinson & Kevin Beuttell of Stantec were in attendance to present on the almost complete 5 Year Capital Improvement Feasibility Study which they have been creating for the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that a majority of the potential project cost estimates outlined were much higher than anticipated. After discussions with both CPA and Capital, Mr. Connelly was able to report back to Stantec to suggest changes. Stantec was able to break out several projects. Specific elements of these were added as alternatives specific to each project.

Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Beuttell presented their findings and suggestions to the Commission. Sites and potential projects discussed included Spy Pond, Scannell Field, Hurd Field, Robbins Farm Hill Slide & Robbins Farm Playground (broken down into two different potential projects), Menotomy Rocks Park, Poet's Corner, McClennen Skate Park, Crosby Tennis Courts, Parmenter Park, Parallel Park, Turkey Hill, and Thorndike Dog Park. Each site discussed included details of its current state, a potential project ideas, and corresponding cost estimates. Alternatives were noted as well for each.

Ms. Mayer thanked Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Beuttell for their work on the information presented. Commissioners were asked to share initial thoughts and feedback at this time. All Commissioner Members expressed positive feedback and appreciation for the information presented and the potential projects/vision of what could be. Mr. Connelly noted that this information and rough realistic cost estimates will be valuable moving forward in terms of project planning and potential funding sources.

### **Capital Project Updates**

#### **Hill Hill Playground ADA project**

Mr. Connelly reported that construction will begin soon around the Hill's Hill area, located at the Summer Street Complex (Ed Burns Arena). The goal of this project is to make create a path system from the parking lot, to the Hill's Hill Playground, on the edge of the Hill's Hill Field, to the bike path which will make all features connected & ADA accessible.

#### **CPA Requests**

Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that he expressed to Capital the previously discussed concerns that the Park & Recreation Commission's Multi Year Plan is not reflected in Capital's Multi Year Plan. Mr. Connelly believes these plans need to be representative on one another, regardless if potential project funding is coming from CPA or Capital. Some anticipated projects by Recreation were not listed as Capital anticipated funding to come from CPA. Mr. Connelly is going to look into this matter further and plans to meet with the Capital Committee to discuss potential projects and funding.

#### **Rink ADA Spectator Seating**

Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that work will also begin soon on this project.

### **Task Group Updates: Mountain Biking and Field Policy**

Mr. Lasker stated that the Mountain Biking Task Force will be meeting tomorrow to review the survey results submitted by task force members. This survey and feedback was based off the task forces' site visits. Information on this survey and meeting will be present to the Commission in the near future.

Mr. Connelly stated that a different survey has been sent out to individuals on the Field Permit and Policy Task Force. The goal of this survey is to collect information and statistics from user groups as this Task Group reviews Field permitting and policies in Arlington.

### **Recreation and Rink Updates**

Registration for all spring and summer programs opened online Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Vaillette happily reported that the department has seen a very positive response so far. In the last (36) hours, there has been over 1,500 unique program registrations that has brought in revenues close to \$300,000. The Department will continue to plan for upcoming spring and summer programs including summer camp & the Reservoir Beach operation.

### **Approval of Minutes – 1/26/2021**

The approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting was discussed. Commission Members made the decision to table the approval of the 1/26/21 Meeting Minutes until next meeting, allowing for more review time.

### **Comments and Items for Future Meetings:**

- a) 2/23/2021 – Mountain Biking Working Group Report
- b) 2/23/2021 - Public Arts Request Menotomy Rocks Park
- c) Fitness and Arts in Parks State of Emergency Program Extension
- d) Bike Rack Placement Recommendation Review

**Other**

Mr. Connelly stated that Recreation has been working with Tufts University. (2) Doctoral students will be with the department this summer. Their time will focus on occupational therapy and how recreation can be more inclusive. Areas included will be programming, department information, and the program registration process.

The next Park & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm.

Ms. Rothenberg made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 5-0, at 8:24pm. The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Program Supervisor, Zachary Vaillette.